

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

28 SEPTEMBER 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

a. The case of the Rhade tribesmen is far from settled today.

b. Yesterday things were looking up when several Vietnamese hostages were snatched from a Rhade camp at Bon Sar Pa by US helicopters. In addition, Rhade units had agreed to resume fighting the Viet Cong after officers of Rhade extraction were put in command.

c. This favorable trend was reversed when government forces today occupied Bon Sar Pa at Khanh's express orders. This was done against US advice, with Khanh agreeing only to delay long enough to get some US special forces out of the camp.

d. Now, we understand, Khanh intends to arrest certain Vietnamese, French, and Rhade personalities alleged to have instigated the mutiny. [REDACTED]

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e. If he so proceeds, he could well provoke a further outburst of trouble with the armed tribesmen.

(Cont'd)

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f. Saigon seems still to be in the grip of the latest coup scare. Extra troops are in evidence in the city though no move has yet been made by any of the many disgruntled military elements.

g. In the face of all this, "Big" Minh's High National Council has begun work on the selection of a provisional assembly which by 1 November is supposed to install a new civilian government.

2. Congo

a. Red Cross officials who flew into Stanleyville last Friday were unable to bring out any Europeans or Americans.

b. They did not see the five US consular personnel, but heard that the Americans were in good health although under house arrest.

c. The near-term prospects for getting them out do not look bright. The rebels evidently consider them an insurance policy against bombing raids.

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d. The officials found that the rebel leaders had little control over their troops. There was evident bitterness between civilians and the rebel troops. Food was in short supply. Near chaos reigned outside the city.

e. The OAU Congo commission is due to arrive in Leopoldville on Thursday. Kasavubu is willing to receive it but insists that it must not in any way give legality or equality to the rebels. He feels the commission has already gone dangerously far along this road.

f. Ambassador Attwood says that Kenyatta, the commission chairman, has decided that Tshombé must go. Kenyatta seems convinced that the rebels are reasonable men with whom a political bargain can and must be struck.

g. Though rebel representatives talk in Nairobi of a ceasefire, we see no rebel disposition for a ceasefire on the scene. On the contrary, they seem to think they can win a military victory.

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h. Kasavubu, for his part, says that the only way to get the Congo back on the tracks is to defeat the rebels militarily.

i. There has been no change in the military picture.

3. UAR - Yemen -
Saudi Arabia

a. Although the atmosphere following the Arab summit has been conducive to a settlement in Yemen, Nasir and Faysal have made little progress in arranging one.

b. There is no sign that the necessary first step, a ceasefire between warring Yemenis, will be achieved soon. Power struggles and tribal disputes on the republican side, which Nasir has been unable to stop, appear to be the most immediate obstacle.

c. Something may yet be worked out, however, since Faysal gives every indication of being willing to accept the exclusion of the Imam Badr from any subsequent government. He may even be willing to subsidize the Imam's exile.

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d. Nasir is certainly willing to sacrifice ineffectual President Sallal.

e. If all of this can be settled and a joint republican-royalist commission set up, Nasir might even be willing to pull out some of his troops.

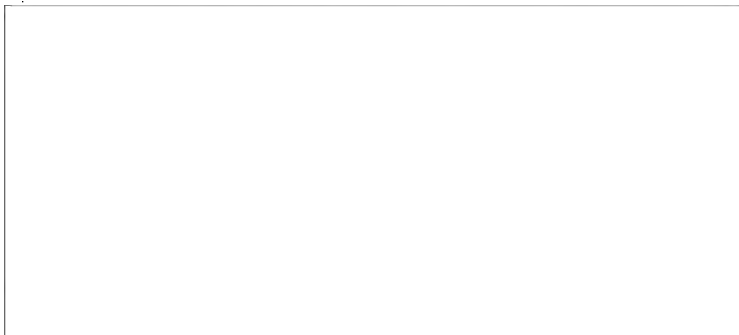
4. Cyprus

a. Galo-Plaza, about to begin his first round of talks as UN mediator on Cyprus, seems to think that more attention must be paid to Makarios if his mediation is to succeed.

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b. He thinks the archbishop is by far the dominant figure on Cyprus, beyond the reach of significant influence or action by Cypriot political movements, Grivas, or the Greek Government. He is convinced [redacted] that Makarios does not want enosis.

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5. De Gaulle in
Latin America

a. US observers in Bogota and Quito report that De Gaulle looked fit and, to all appearances, bore up well under the rigors of his schedule.

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c. Ambassador Bohlen, pointing out that De Gaulle customarily introduces his chief themes early on, finds that he has not so far been blatantly anti-American.

d. De Gaulle is, however, suggesting to his South American hosts that they could profit by joining a trans-Atlantic Latin Club with him and conducting their affairs with Washington as he does.

e. He is due in Cochabamba, Bolivia today and security arrangements are extensive.

6. Laos

a. Pathet Lao leader Souphanouvong, who is due to leave Paris on his way back to Laos today, has been taking a harsh line with representatives of the Laotian co-chairmen, the ICC, and the press.

b. He has brushed aside suggestions about a ceasefire and has intimated that a new round of fighting may come if Pathet Lao demands are not met.

c. Back in Laos, the military situation has been relatively quiet, and the government has been generating what little action there has been.

7. Communist China

a. Sihanouk is in Peiping, exuding pro-Chinese sentiments. He appears to be the stellar attraction for the celebration of the Peiping regime's 15th anniversary on 1 October.

b. As far as we know, the only other chiefs of state in attendance will be Massamba-Debat from the Congo (Brazzaville) and Modiba Keita of Mali. Rumania's Premier Maurer is also due to show.

NOTES

A. France

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- B. Argentina Peronist labor leaders, who have been conducting a campaign of sporadic anti-government agitation for several months now, are pressing for a 24-hour general strike. To get the maximum mileage, they would like to set it off during De Gaulle's 3-6 October visit.
- C. Morocco-Algeria The Moroccans have been telling us that Algeria is getting ready to attack them again and point to the 8 October anniversary of last year's fighting as a likely jump-off date. We have no evidence to support this. Indeed, the bulk of the Algerian Army seems now to be tied down in parts of Algeria removed from the border.

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